11:Levine Z-4,5 (1958-1961)1965 MP5 Amhara MP5

NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION

An effort has been made to represent accurately all Ethiopian words used in the text—except for a handful of the most commonly encountered names of emperors, provinces, and ethnic groups—by means of a consistently applied system of transliteration. The system followed here is that used by the majority of English and Italian scholars.*

VOWELS

Order in Ethiopic Script	Symbol Used	Pronunciation
First	a	as in *care*
Second	u	as in *prudent*
Third	i	as in *ravine*
Fourth	ā	as in *father*
Fifth	ē	as in *prey*
Sixth	e	as in *silent*
Seventh	ĭ	as in *sit*
	o	as in *go*

CONSONANTS

Glottalized consonants are represented by q, ṭ, ṭs, ċh, and ṗ. Geminated consonants are indicated by doubling the consonant.

* For the Amharic alphabet according to this system of transliteration, see I. Guidi, *Vocabolario Amarico-Italiano* (Rome: Istituto per l'Oriente, 1953), pp. xiv–xv; or C. F. Beckingham and G. Huntingford, ed., *The Prester John of the Indies* (2 vols.; Cambridge: Hakluyt Society, 1961), I, 24–25.

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11:Levine Z-4,5 (1958-1961)1965 MP5 Amhara MP5

GLOSSARY

Abuna	አቡነ	Archbishop of the Ethiopian Church 104 •
Afa negus	አፈ ንጉሥ	Chief judicial magistrate (literally, "mouth of the king")
Agar	አገር	Country, homeland
Alaqā	አለቃ	Chief, commander
Aqābē sa'āt	ዐቃቤ ሰዓት	Title of the chief ecclesiastic at the imperial court in former times
Aquāquām	አቋቋም	Traditional religious dance performed by *dabtarā*
Azmāri	አዝማሪ	Minstrel
Bālābbāt	ባላባት	Local notable; one who comes from a distinguished family
Bālagē	ባለገ	Rude
Bāla-selṭān	ባለሥልጣን	One who holds delegated political authority
Bānnā	ባና	A woolen blanket worn by people in Manz
Barnos	በርኖስ	A dark wool cape worn by people of high status
Bēt	ቤት	House, room, quarter
Budā	ቡዳ	A person believed to possess the "evil eye"
Çhawā	ጭዋ	Free-born; genteel

11:Levine Z-4,5 (1958-1961)1965 MP5 Amhara MP5

104 Çhĭqā shum	ቁጣ ሹም	Local headman
Çhĭqeçhĭq	ጥቅጥቅ	Bickering
Dābo	ዳቦ	A whole wheat bread
Dabtarā	ደብተራ	Literatus of the Ethiopian Church, functions as chorister, poet, scribe, herbologist, etc.
Dĕgā	ዴጋ	Highland
Dulā	ዱላ	Wooden staff
Eçhagē	አጫጌ	Traditional title of administrative head of the Ethiopian Church
Eddīl	እድል	Fate
Eddīr	እድር	(Modern) voluntary welfare association
Engurguro	እንጉርጉሮ	Song genre used in times of grief
Equb	ዕቁብ	(Modern) form of credit union
Faranj	ፈረንጅ	Foreigner (esp. Western)
Gabbār	ገባር	One who pays tribute
Gannā	ገና	A hockey-like game played at Christmas
Gĭber	ግብር	Tribute; a large meal
Goramsā	ጎረምሳ	A virile youth
Guabaz	ጉበዝ	Brave, hardy
Gulammā	ጉለማ	Grain which a youth produces and keeps as his own; personal possession
Gult	ጉልት	Conditional rights to the tribute and corvée labor due from the peasants on a certain piece of land
Gurshā	ጉርሻ	A wad of food placed in someone's mouth
Ĭnjarā	እንጀራ	Staple food among Amhara and Tigre, a kind of pancake
Kāhenāt	ካህናት	Clergy
Kutā	ኩታ	A cotton toga of double thickness
Lālibalā	ላሊበላ	One who sings at night to ward off leprosy
Lĕbā	ሌባ	Thief
Lĭjj	ልጅ	Child

11:Levine Z-4,5 (1958-1961)1965 MP5 Amhara MP5

Māhebar	ማኅበር	Traditional religious fraternal association; now, any kind of voluntary formal association
Makuānnent	መኳንንት	Nobility
Mātab	ማተብ	A neckcord worn to symbolize membership in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Marīdāzmātch	መርዳዝማች	Honorific title peculiar to Shoa province
Mīzē	ሚዜ	"Best man" at a wedding
Nagārit	ነጋሪት	Drum traditionally used by authorities to signal proclamations
Negusa nagast	ንጉሠ ነገሥት	Emperor (literally, "king of kings")
Qenē	ቅኔ	Religious poetry based on use of wax-and-gold figures
Qollā	ቆላ	Lowlands
Querbān	ቍርባን	Communion
Rīst	ርስት	Hereditary rights to the use of land
Sam-ennā warq	ሰምና ወርቅ	"Wax and gold." See text, chap. i
Saw	ሰው	Man; others
Seltānē	ስልጣኔ	Civilization, progress
Shammā	ሸማ	Light cotton toga worn by many Ethiopians
Shīftā	ሽፍታ	Rebel; outlaw
Shīllalā	ሽለላ	A genre of martial songs
Shumat	ሹመት	Appointment (to office)
Shum-shīr	ሹም ሽር	"Appoint-demote": refers to the traditional process of allocating political offices
Tābot	ታቦት	Holy ark
Ṭajj	ጠጅ	Honey-wine
Ṭallā	ጠላ	Barley-beer
Ṭanquāy	ጠንቋይ	Sorcerer, witch-doctor
Ṭayb	ጠይብ	Metalworker believed to possess the evil eye
Ṭēff	ጤፍ	An indigenous grass cultivated in Ethiopia as a cereal grain
Ṭegābaññā	ጥጋበኛ	One who has grown arrogant from a surfeit of food and drink
Tergum	ትርጉም	Interpretation

11:Levine Z-4,5 (1958-1961)1965 MP5 Amhara MP5

• 104

Ṭiqem	ጥቅም	Personal advantage
Ṭimqat	ጥምቀት	Baptism; Epiphany
Weṣa wayrā	ውስጠ ወይራ	"Inside of olive-tree." See text, chap. i
Zār	ዝር	A spirit which brings sickness
Zamad	ዘመድ	Kinfolk; close ones
Zēmā	ዜማ	Religious music

12:Young E-4,5 (1966) 1971 MP5 Amhara MP5
Begemder

000 tire culture area.

104 There is a final, linguistic note. In describing Amhara medical beliefs, it has been necessary to employ a substantial number of Amharic terms. The more frequently used terms are included in the index, where each is followed by an English gloss. Within the text, these terms are used together with English, rather than Amharic, grammatical markers.